

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1-16 and 18-20, of which claims 1 and 19 are independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration together with entry of those amendments and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Initially, Applicant has carefully reviewed all of the pending claims in light of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and have amended each of the claims to address the grounds of rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that by way of those amendments, each of those grounds of rejection has been addressed and should now be withdrawn.

Each of independent claims 1 and 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either the Hewlett Packard Office Jet 600 Series Device (HPOJ) or Jang (U.S. Patent No. 6,315,280). In view of the above amendments the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as now set forth in independent claim 1 is directed to a sheet supplying apparatus which comprises a first stacking portion that stacks sheets therein, a second stacking portion that stacks sheets therein, the second stacking portion arranged in a detachable/attachable manner from and to the first stacking portion, and the second stacking portion including a base member for mounting to the first stacking portion in a tray arranged in the movable manner to the base member via a guide groove for supporting a sheet as stacked, together with a supplying roller. The supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the first

stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove and supplies the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove.

Independent claim 19 is directed to a recording apparatus for recording on a sheet the recording means and incorporates therein the sheet supplying apparatus as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, in the sheet supplying apparatus of the present invention, a second stacking portion is arranged in detachable/attachable manner from and to the first stacking portion, and the second sheet stacking portion includes a base member for mounting to the first stacking portion and a tray arranged in a movable manner to the base member via a guide groove, for supporting a sheet stack. In addition, the claims require that a supplying roller supply a sheet stacked in the first stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction and supply a sheet supported by the tray when the tray moves and supplies a sheet stacked in the second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction. As a result of this combination of features, the sheet supplying apparatus of the present invention allows for the supply of a plurality of different types of sheets while still maintaining a compact structure.

The Hewlett Packard Office Jet 600 Series device features a first stacking portion and a second stacking portion. However, there is no teaching or suggestion therein of the second stacking portion being arranged in a detachable/attachable manner from and to the first stacking portion. Nor is there teaching or suggestion of the tray of the second stacking portion moving in the sheet supplying direction.

Jang also fails to teach or suggest that aspect of the present invention wherein the second stacking portion is arranged in detachable/attachable manner from and to the first stacking portion, and that the tray of the second stacking portion moves in the sheet supplying direction.

Accordingly, neither of the applied references teach or suggest the invention as now set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 19. Moreover, even when taken in combination, those references do not suggest the invention as set forth in the independent claims.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of independent claim 1 and claim 19 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 19. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of these amendments after final as they are presented in an earnest effort to advance prosecution and place this application in condition for allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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